

## **February Mixed Waste Subgroup Highlights**

The Hanford STCG Mixed Waste (MW) Subgroup met on February 15, 2001 in the ETB Spokane Room.

Kevin Leary stated that the Mixed Waste Focus Area (MWFA) has changed its name to the TRU and Mixed Waste Focus Area (TMFA).

Sharon Bailey (PNNL) presented the status of the work being done on the TMFA funded effort to size reduce RH-TRU at Hanford. T-Plant will be the place where the reduction will take place. There is a procurement out through NETL seeking proposals by February 22. A selection panel will meet February 28 to March 1. There will be a cold demonstration in the 600 Area in April and this will be Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 will start in June and is the purchase and installation of the equipment at T-Plant. There could be more than two vendors doing cold demonstrations in Phase 1. The demo consists of size reducing a cold tower in the 616 Building. These cold towers are similar to the hot towers at T-Plant. Each vendor would receive \$50-100K to demo their equipment.

Wayne Johnson, PNNL, gave a viewgraph presentation of the Hanford S&T Plan that is almost ready to be sent out for review. DOE-RL Strategic Planning is leading this effort that is looking at the big clean-up problems at Hanford from a site-wide perspective. Project teams were assembled to examine the major problems and were composed of personnel from all contractors on Site. The work is tied to Hanford revised project baselines, key site cleanup objectives, and incorporates the results of recent, emerging roadmaps. In the near future, copies of the plan will be sent to all STCG management council members for their review.

Wayne reviewed the 11 site closure challenges facing Hanford that were addressed in the Plan. These challenges are like needs but broader in scope. Of the 11 challenges, three have implications for the MW Subgroup. They are: Retrieval of RH Waste, RH-TRU Handling and Disposition, and Surface Barriers. After assessing all of the challenges, four potential S&T opportunities were identified: RH Waste Retrieval and Processing; Surface Barrier Confirmation Testing; Groundwater and Subsurface Technology; and Massive Facility Disposition Options. Wayne then quickly reviewed the tools used in the assessment of the challenges including estimated cost data and closure schedules. Two of the preliminary recommendations that deal with the work of the MW subgroup are:

- develop a focused program for assessing and developing technologies for retrieval and disposition of RH Wastes;
- testing and development of modified surface barrier concepts and associated monitoring techniques that should be pursued.

In addition, one general recommendation is to work in close cooperation with the Hanford Site STCG to ensure that integrated S&T needs are included in project baselines and requests for incorporation in National Focus Area and EMSP basic research initiatives. This report will be sent to Gerald Boyd at EM-50 this month as a draft for DOE-HQ review. Gerald may have all DOE Sites do this and then match up the needs or challenges across all the Sites. This could lead to more partnerships among the Sites having the same needs.

Kevin Leary and Terry Walton discussed the TMFA responses to the MW needs that we submitted to them. The needs identification process is now integrated with the Site wide baseline planning process. The needs are being updated during the year as needed and once a year they will be rolled up, documented, and distributed to the Focus Areas. They will also be put into the EM-50 IPABS database system once a year. FH will be finished with baselining by June 30 so, after that, the needs could be redone and then submitted to the Focus Areas and EM-50. The Technology Insertion Points (TIPs) will be identified in the new baselining document so we need to make sure the needs are linked to the TIPs correctly. The subgroup discussed the idea of meeting with the TMFA at Hanford to discuss their responses to the needs we submitted. We should have the project representatives present to review our needs with the TMFA representatives and to discuss details of the needs. Sometime in May looks like the best time to hold the meeting with the TMFA. A special subgroup meeting will be held at the end of March to review the TMFA responses to our needs.

Kevin suggested we roll up our needs into four categories. Terry pointed out that we already have done such a roll up last year for the MW needs. In addition, FH looked at a path forward with industry to meet these needs. Scott Petersen stated that caisson needs are being put together now. He will send these needs out to the subgroup for review. Kevin stated that he is working on developing a new need for the LERF on ways to detect leaks under LERF. A couple of new technologies may be tested soon. Kevin will send this draft need to Jim Sloughier. The need may require some bench scale work that would most likely be funded by the Subcon Focus Area rather than the TMFA. Subcon has a lead lab concept and funding for fast issue resolution that may be able to be obtained for this effort. Kevin will work with Arlene Tortoso (DOE), the Subcon Subgroup chair, on this.

Bill Bonner gave an update on the TMFA End-User Review meeting held February 6-7 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Others that attended from this subgroup include Ken Quigley, Jim Sloughier, and Mark French. All the presentations were joint ones with the new Carlsbad (CBFO) person giving half and the INEEL product line manager the other half. It looks like Carlsbad people will be focusing on the TRU issues and INEEL people on the MW issues. Vince Maio, INEEL, is the manager of the Alternatives to Incineration work package and he may have \$ 2.4 million available in funding. The upcoming ASTD call for proposals will also have some funding for TMFA issues. The ASTD call is to come in April and there

is a ~ \$10 million available in funding this year. The TMFA is asking for Hanford representatives to serve on TMFA working groups and teams. There will be TMFA representatives here at the end of February to work with us on the NETL procurement/demo for the long-length reduction task. We will ask them about FY02 funding for that task. There may also be an opportunity to have a demo of SAMMS at Hanford or other locations. The TMFA is looking for opportunities to provide technical assistance to Hanford. We should be aware of this funding source and take advantage of the funding as appropriate.

The subgroup decided to hold a special half-day meeting on March 27 to review the TMFA responses to our needs. After that meeting we will discuss if we would like to invite TMFA representatives to Hanford to discuss our needs in more detail.

**Mixed Waste Subgroup Meeting Attendees – 02/15/01**

Sharon Bailey	PNNL	375-2243
Bill Bonner	PNNL	372-6263
Judit German-Heins	NezPerce	(208) 843-7375
Jim Hanson	DOE-RL	372-4503
Fred Jamison	Ecology	736-3022
Wayne Johnson	PNNL	372-4791
Kevin Leary	DOE-RL	373-7285
Tina Masterson-Heggen	Ecology	736-5701
Scott Petersen	BHI	372-9126
Ken Quigley	WMH	376-7779
Terry Walton	FH	372-4548
Steve Weakley	PNNL	372-4275